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AUTHOR Webb, T. D.; Jensen, E. A.
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ABSTRACT

Noting that the changing nature of information delivery has established immediacy as the new basis for modern library service, this paper describes the new facilities design and floor plan for the library of Kapiolani Community College of the University of Hawaii. The new library was carefully designed so that students can move progressively from televised newscasts through the current periodicals area, reference resources, and general and special collections. This spatial arrangement allows students to trace any topic from its most current state, through its recent stages, and finally to in-depth study. The ground floor is the setting for many of the library's activities, among them a computer lab, a language lab, the current events alcove, the audiovisual alcove, display cases, programming, and the conference room. The main attraction is the current events alcove, which will include a video wall of cable, network, and local news, as well as another stack of monitors to display additional broadcasts or video bulletin boards. Included in the audiovisual alcove area are 56 mediated carrels linked to the campus cable television system and data network, as well as terminals for the library's online catalog. The online catalog uses the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) system and is also networked with CARL's periodicals index. The general and special collections, which are located on the second floor, include extensive materials on Japan and China. (MAB)

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SMART LIBRARIES: INTEGRATING COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

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T.D. Webb, Ph.D., and E.A. Jensen, Ph.D.

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The startling events of the last two years vividly demonstrate that libraries of the 21st century cannot perform their function without monitoring television newscasts to add immediacy to their standard information sources. Events such as the bloody confrontation in Tiananmen Square, the reformation of Eastern Europe, the War in the Gulf, the chance of peace in the Middle East, the ill-conceived Soviet coup, and the subsequent dissolution of the Soviet Union are becoming everyday occurrences that hourly revise global affairs, and exert their influence on local circumstances internationally.

Traditionally, printed books and journals were the library's major means of supplying the combination of background knowledge and current information that distinguishes quality independent study and research. But the changing nature of information delivery, especially the televised newscast, has established immediacy as the new basis for modern library service. Bringing the television into the library is the essence of what some have called the "Just In Time" concept of information delivery, as opposed to the more traditional and passive "Just In Case" approach to information storage.

A number of college and university libraries are introducing

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cable and network newscasts into their information delivery services by installing monitors in their lobbies. But often these attempts are less effective that they could be because this type of service was not envisioned in the design of the library facility. Monitors tuned to CNN or network news may have to be located in areas that are less than accommodating to the large numbers of students who want to know, who need to know, the fast-breaking events that affect us all. Monitors are often stuck in a corner out of the main traffic flow because the building was not designed for video information delivery, and a corner may be the only place a video line could be installed or dropped from the ceiling, after the fact.

At Kapiolani Community College of the University of Hawaii, however, the new library was designed with an emphatic video information delivery system in mind. The library's spatial arrangement accentuates the best characteristics of both the video and print information formats, and places them in a logical relationship to each other to integrate those characteristics.

Located in Honolulu, Kapiolani College nestles on the slopes of Diamond Head crater. It has a commanding view of the Waikiki skyline, the limitless ocean, and Oahu's wall of mountains and valleys. Its situation suggests an openness to the world that we want to capture in our approach to information delivery.

The elongated shape of the library creates an imposing facade and a visual image of largeness by displaying more of the exterior treatment at a glance than would be visible with some

other plan. And because the entrance is located at one end, students are drawn into the center of the building, past numerous intriguing services and activities that they might not expect to see in a normal library. They can't simply dash in and dash out as they would at a convenience store or a fast-food restaurant. Once they enter, they can't avoid being exposed to and held by the library's full range of services.

The ground floor is the "noisy" zone. It's like an information buffet. Here interaction between students and the library staff is intense, and it is the setting for many of the library's activities. Students entering the building will encounter a computer lab, a language lab, the current events alcove, the audio-visual alcove, display cases, programming, conference room, and other features before they even see any books, which on the first floor are located at the far end of the building.

The current events alcove is the library's main attraction. It is the means the Kapiolani library will use to incorporate mass communications channels into its information delivery strategy. Here a 3x3 video wall will be installed in full view of all who enter the building. It is intended to be visually riveting. The major image on this matrix will be dedicated to cable, network, and local news. Another stack of monitors will display additional broadcasts or video bulletin boards. The sound portions of the broadcasts are selectively available through earphones and directional speakers.

The current events alcove is sunken three feet to help control the sound from the speakers, and to create a comfortable ambience while students keep current with international and local news. The steps down to the alcove also serve as seating, and contain the wiring and selectors for the audio channels.

The control station for the video wall is located behind the circulation desk, as is the electronic distribution "head end" for the campus cable network. The library staff can thus coordinate broadcasts over the campus cable, which connects to the library's video wall and media carrels, as well as to classrooms throughout the campus. All the KCC classrooms and conference rooms are connected to the head end through the campus video cable, and are also linked to the campus data network.

The audio-visual alcove surrounds the video wall area, and includes 56 mediated carrels that are linked to the campus cable TV system and data network.

The campus data network provides access to text and bibliographic databases throughout the state, as well as to databases in the mainland U.S. and, soon, in Japan. Many of the other study carrels throughout the library will also be linked to the campus data network for users who wish to bring their own portable computers to work in the library.

Terminals for the library's online catalog are also located in this area. The Kapiolani library uses the CARL system located at the Hamilton Library on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus. The CARL system was developed by the Colorado Alliance of

Research Libraries. Using CARL terminals in the Kapiolani library, students can access the holdings of the university's libraries around the state. They can link to a state legislative database called ACCESS to see the full texts of pending state legislation, public hearing notices, committee agendas, and other information about state agencies; they can link to the Hawaii public library system to search that state-wide database; they can also see the holdings of more than 200 other libraries across the U.S. The UH libraries plan to develop the system's capacity to handle Chinese, Japanese, and Korean vernacular characters, and load data directly from Asia, making the UH CARL system a multinational information platform and an electronic data bridge between the U.S. mainland and Asia.

Students at the Kapiolani library can also access "Uncover," CARL's index to 10,000 periodical titles and over 2 million individual articles, and then place an online request for a FAX full-text copy of any article they find indexed. The FAX should arrive within 24 hours at a cost of about $10. From the same terminal they can also access special custom-made databases, such as the Hawaii Song Index, the Hawaii State Data Book, a Hawaiian-English dictionary, and others.

This area is the library's connectivity crossroads. Locating the monitor matrix here, close to the current periodicals and reference areas, permits students to follow a topic of interest from its most current stages, through recent treatments in periodical format, and do even further research into the past by

using the library's reference, general, and special collections.

The general and special collections are on the second floor. This is the "quiet" zone. The library's special collections, include extensive materials on Japan and China donated by private individuals and corporate donors such as the Japan Forum of Kodansha International.

Donations and other considerations have played an important part in the Kapiolani library. For example, Oceanic Cable, the local cable television company, generously loaned us a team of engineers and technicians to compile the specifications for the video wall system we need, survey the market to make recommendations about the available products, and then put together a funding package for the purchase.

The library's design places several information services in a spatial arrangement that is logical and intriguing to our students. The best learning combines current information with thorough background knowledge. Awareness of the continuity between historical conditions and current events yields the richest type of learning, and is essential for intelligent modern living. But we have observed that students often fail to grasp the full importance of local and world developments because they do not associate current affairs with the knowledge contained in library collections, or with the learning that takes place in their classrooms. It's the familiar issue of relevance in education. Despite abundant ambient information and mass communications on pressing issues that demand intelligent action,

student research often lacks the focus provided by up-to-the-minute data combined with a good grounding in the existing documentation of the issues. The new Kapiolani library was designed to integrate these various learning formats in a single, structured whole.

For example, when important events or crises occur, such as political campaigns, military conflicts, space flights, etc., the video wall gives students the fast-breaking news stories. From there, students can retrieve recent, more in-depth treatments of the events in news magazines and newspapers, which are located next to the current events alcove. Students then can proceed to the library's reference, general, and special collections to get detailed background information on the events and the issues they involve.

As the floor plan shows, the new library was configured with a scalar concept of information in mind. The current events alcove with its video wall is the source and the symbol of the library's innovative vision of integrated information that will help students see the relevance of the past to today's fast-changing world.

Installing a video wall in the library is a departure from traditional library services. It is a strategy we hope will improve our students' grasp of current world and local events, while also providing the resources for students to gain a familiarity with the scholarship that will add depth to their understanding of important world happenings. With the video wall

and the current events alcove, the Kapiolani Community College library links electronic information channels to the accumulated, organized knowledge of our book collections. We hope this will greatly enhance learning in the library.

The new Kapiolani Library was carefully designed so that students can move progressively from televised newscasts through the Library's current periodicals area, reference resources, and general and special collections. This spatial arrangement will allow students to trace any topic from its most current state, through its recent stages, and finally to in-depth study. Following this path, students will see more clearly the relevance of events in today's fast-changing world to the subjects of their classroom studies and to the wealth of knowledge held in the library's print collections.